

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

|  |   |                             |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>In the Matter of</b>                | ) |                             |
|  | ) |                             |
| <b>The FCC Seeks Comments on</b>       | ) | <b>IB Docket No. 04-286</b> |
| <b>Recommendations Approved by the</b> | ) |                             |
| <b>Advisory Committee for the 2007</b> | ) |                             |
| <b>World Radio Communications</b>      | ) |                             |
| <b>Conference</b>                      | ) |                             |

**To the Commission:**

**Additional Comments of Nickolaus E. Leggett, N3NL  
Amateur Radio Extra Class Operator**

The following are formal comments from Nickolaus E. Leggett. These comments are directed at WRC-07 agenda item 1.13. My comments are in addition to my comments that I filed in this docket on October 17, 2006.

**Amateur Radio Services on the Proposed 5 MHz Band**

Establishing a 150 kHz amateur radio band in the vicinity of 5 MHz (60 meter wavelength) would greatly assist domestic and international public service communications. This proposed amateur radio band would provide propagation characteristics that are very useful for 24-hour amateur radio communications.

**Wide-Area Emergencies**

This communications capability would be very useful for emergencies that cover wide geographic areas. These emergencies include natural disasters such as hurricanes in the coastal United States, major earthquakes

in the western states, and the extensive social disruption of a pandemic flu. Also, rogue nation attacks and advanced terrorist events, such as an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) or biological attacks, could disable our infrastructure over a wide geographic area.

Amateur radio operators would be capable of providing continuous communications over these wide areas without the need for an elaborate and functioning landline or satellite network infrastructure. Instead, the hams would merely attach their radio transceivers to a convenient 12-Volt car battery and hang a simple dipole antenna from nearby trees. Using the new 5 MHz amateur band they could communicate consistently throughout the area of the widespread emergency.

It is likely that some wide-area emergencies will occur within the next five to ten years. Therefore, we need an amateur radio band near 5 MHz to support this type of communication. The currently allocated set of several fixed channels is inadequate for this service.

### **Communications with Boats at Sea**

This communications capability would also be vital for oceangoing yachts and sailboats. These vessels often are crewed by amateur radio operators who use their ham stations as back up communications at sea. These ocean-going hams have often carried out emergency communications and assisted with rescues at sea.

### **International Consequences**

A new amateur radio frequency band at 5 MHz would be very useful for other nations as well. Large nations such as Russia, China, and Brazil could benefit from emergency services provided by amateur radio operators. This new frequency band would be especially valuable for communications in mountainous terrain with signals transmitted nearly vertically to the ionosphere for reflection to the destination. Also, island nations such as Indonesia and those in the Caribbean would use this amateur band for communications between islands during an emergency.

### **Propagation Diversity**

The new amateur radio band would increase the propagation diversity of the amateur radio service where amateur operators can select the appropriate frequency band for the desired communication.

### **Requested Action**

The Commission should work at the World Radio Conference to establish this new frequency band for the amateur radio service. This allocation should be on a world-wide basis available to all nations.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Nickolaus E. Leggett**

**N3NL, Amateur Radio Extra Class Operator**

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